were held directly between the Government of India, HDW and the West German Government without any Indian agent being engaged. The matter is being pursued with the West German Government.

Fall in circulation of Notes

2289. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VIKAL:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accoring to Reserve Bank of India there has been a sharp fall of Rs. 205.29 crore in the first week of June, 1987 in the circulation of notes;

(b) if so, what is the extent of shortfall of notes in circulation during the year 1986-87 and from April to July, 1987;

(c) what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take in this regard and to contain black money from going in foreign banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The notes in circulation had increased in different periods as given below:

Increase in Notes in Circulation

(Rs. crores)

Period	*Amount*
(i) April, 1986 to March, 1987.	2,662
(ii) Week ended June 5, 1987	587
(iii) April,3 to July 31, 1987.	771

(d) The Government have stepped up the drive against the economic offenders including those who indulge in violating the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act.

Permission to invest in research and development abroad

2290. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering the question of allowing Indian Companies to invest in research and development abroad; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Government is considering the possibility of investing in R. & D. companies abroad as a method of acquisition of new technologies. But no policy decision on this has been taken and no specific proposals formulated.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Concessional aid from Aid India Consortium

2291. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the annual meeting of Aid India Consortium held at Paris in June this year India had pleaded for continued flow of concessional aid

to this country to help maintain its pace of economic development; and

(b) if so, what was the response of the Consortium thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total aid pledges indicated at the recent Consortium meeting were of the order of US $ 5.4 billion.

India main drug trafficking channel

2292. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the Hindustan Times dated June 25, 1987, captioned "India main drug trafficking channel";

(b) if so, how far is it correct that 80 per cent of the heroin found on the streets of United Kingdom and Western Europe comes via Bombay; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard during the past three months and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) No such assessment that 80 per cent of heroin found in the streets of United Kingdom and Western Europe comes via Bombay is reported to have been made by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. Reports received by the Narcotics Control Bureau indicate that out of a total quantity of 64 kgs. of heroin seized in the United Kingdom in 1987 (up to 30th June, 1987), only 13 kgs. were believed to have been routed through India. Besides, according to the Annual Reports of the International Narcotics Control Board for the last few years, most of heroin seized in the United Kingdom and Western Europe are reportedly from the Near and Middle East regions.

The fight against drug-trafficking is a continuous process. As a result of the various measures taken to check drug-trafficking, more than 1700 kgs. of heroin and 7 tonnes of hashish have been seized in the current year till now.

Insurance cover for poor in Delhi

2293. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in providing insurance cover for the poor in Delhi under the scheme announced about two years earlier, indicating the number of persons who have got the benefit of the scheme so far; and

(b) how much money has so far been paid by Government towards premia for the insurance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The question presumably refers to the Personal Accident Insurance Social Security Scheme for Poor Families which was introduced in Delhi as in other places on 15th August, 1985. According to the Scheme, applications for compensation in the case of accidental death of earning members of poor families, are to be made on prescribed forms to the Claims Enquiry-cum-Settlement Officer (CESO). The CESO, on receipt of applications, makes enquiries and on being satisfied that the applicant belongs to a poor family within the framework of the Scheme, authorises payment to the rightful claimant. The claims so recommended are thereafter paid by the Insurance Company. To oversee the claim settlement operations, a District Level Consultative Committee (DLCC) has been set up and to guide